

The Full Circle

Current news and helpful tips from Carmel Utilities

Frying a turkey this year?

Turkey deep-frying often leaves behind three to five gallons of used cooking oil. Follow these steps to safely dispose of used oil:

- Let the oil cool completely. Pour the oil into its original container or another leak-proof container and label the container "Used Cooking Oil".
- Take the used cooking oil to the Carmel Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Site, 901 North Range Line Road, during operating hours. (Tues – Fri: 8 am – 5 pm; Sat: 9 am – Noon)
- For smaller volumes (less than a quart) allow the oil to cool and



solidify. Scrape it into the trash. Hint: add kitty litter to the oil. The litter will absorb the oil and form clumps for tossing in your garbage.

By following these few guidelines homeowners can prevent the possibility of clogged pipes and sewer overflows.

Preventing clogged pipes and sewers

The holidays are the perfect time for families and friends to get together. Usually these gatherings are accompanied by wonderful holiday meals and desserts which are often laden with fats. Proper disposal of fats, oils and grease is essential to maintaining clean and clear sewer lines both in and out of the kitchen.

Sewer blockages during the holidays

The potential for sewer blockages increases during the holidays compared to the rest of the year. Many traditional holiday favorites

are full of fats, oils and grease. When not properly disposed of, these substances build up in sewer pipes, forming clogs that can lead to costly sewer backups and overflow.

Fats, oils and grease poured down the drain and garbage disposal accumulate in sewer pipes throughout the year, particularly during the fall and winter holidays when cooking increases. While utility crews treat the system with expensive degreasers and specialized tools, it is often not enough to offset the large amount of grease introduced into the system.

What you can do:

Residents should take steps to properly dispose of fats, oils and grease when cleaning up the kitchen. Below are some simple tips to follow:

- Pour cooled fats, oils and grease into a container such as an empty can and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Before washing dishes, scrape leftover fatty and greasy foods from pots, pans and dishes into the garbage using a spatula or plastic utensil.
- Use sink strainers to prevent fatty and greasy food scraps from going down the drain.
- If a back up does occur, Call Carmel Utilities at 317-571-2645 or after hours at 317-571-2580

Electronics Recycling Information

Effective January 1, 2011, Indiana households, public schools, and small businesses will no longer be able to mix unwanted computer monitors, computers, televisions, printers, computer peripherals (such as keyboards and mice), DVD players, video cassette recorders or fax machines with waste that is intended for disposal at a landfill or intended for disposal by burning or incineration. This disposal prohibition can be found in Indiana Code 13-20.5.

Residents of Carmel can dispose of their electronics at the following locations:

Best Buy and Office Depot:

These Carmel retailers accept a variety of electronic items. Size limits and charges may apply. Please check with the appropriate retailer for detailed information.



Carmel residents can use the Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center in Noblesville.

The facility accepts household electronics of all kinds. This service is free for all Hamilton County residents. Businesses are not eligible. When dropping off items you must have a drivers license or property tax statement that shows you live in Hamilton County.

The Household Hazardous Waste Center is located immediately west of the Hamilton County Extension and 4-H Fair Grounds at 1717 Pleasant Street, Noblesville.

Note: Carmel Household Hazardous Waste Disposal site does not accept electronics of any kind.

New Trash & Recycling Service Extended Absence Policy

Starting January 1, 2013 all requests for suspension of trash & recycling service charges due to an extended absence of a month or longer must be accompanied by a suspension of water service as well.

When implementing a new program of any type, it often becomes necessary to adjust policies and procedures to best fit the reality of the situation. After the first year of the citywide trash and recycling program, it became apparent that the extended absence process was not effective. Initially, charges for trash & recycling service and related charges could be suspended in one month increments without having

water service shut off. Most residents when leaving their homes for extended periods will have their water service suspended.

Requests for suspension of service

However, there have been many residents who suspend trash service but leave their water service on. Many times a resident's length of absence changes and the utility department is not notified or notified on a delayed basis. The city trash service is then utilized without proper payment. There

have also been many occurrences of residents claiming extended absences just to avoid paying for trash service. These situations happened on a frequent basis and are difficult to monitor in a cost-effective manner.

The new policy, which is in effect for requests received after January 1, 2013, is more in line with good home management practice. Suspending water service when leaving your home for extended periods of time prevents the possibility of frozen and/or broken pipes and any resulting damage.

Carmel Utilities thanks you for your understanding as we implement efficient procedures that keep our overhead costs low.

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